



Benet Hill Monastery

3190 Benet Lane ∞ Colorado Springs, CO 80921-1500

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2018 MAR -8 P 1:04

February 26, 2018

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20248

RE: Docket No. RM 2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

I join the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC) and the non-profit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postal rates several times the rate of inflation.

This will have a major negative impact on our revenue and on our mission if accepted. As a nonprofit, we rely on mail for the majority of our fundraising.

Our mission statement is:

We are a contemporary Benedictine Monastery presence. We provide the sacred space of hospitality and the use of our human and material resources in education, spirituality, and other viable ministries. We do this with all God's people and with a special emphasis for women.

This increase would negatively affect the care of our elderly sisters and our outreach to the poor and marginalized.

Please reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

Sister Elizabeth Cogan
Retired - 85 yrs old

Telephone (719) 633-0655 ∞ Fax (719) 471-0403

www.benethillmonastery.org

February 27, 2018

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave. NW Suite 200
Washington DC 20268

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2018 MAR -8 P 1:04

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Commissioners,

I belong to a small religious community. We are a contemporary Benedictine Monastic presence. We provide the sacred space of hospitality and the use of our human and material resources in education, spirituality and other viable ministries. We do this with all God's people and with a special emphasis for women.

Since I am an 89 year old member of the community I feel I must write this letter. Most of our Sisters are over 78. As teachers we served in the poorest public and Catholic schools in five states. We also worked in parishes and community services for minimum wages and with no benefits for many years. Sisters were not allowed to apply for Social Security until the law changed in 1972. To qualify we had to pay the full amount of social security for the four previous years. Even so our average Social Security benefits are about one third of that of people our age and with the number of years worked. Many sisters continue to work into their mid-80s to help support the community.

At this time I do not know how we will be able to reduce our mailings with our fixed fund raising budget at this time in our lives. We rely on the generosity of donors to help keep up with the rising costs of living especially the medical expenses senior citizens are faced with.

Please I join all religious community members in asking you to reconsider your proposal to increase postal rates several times the rate of inflation. To have to reduce the number of mailings would be catastrophic as we absolutely need this source of income

Sincerely,

Sister Kathleen Cogan, OSB

Sister Kathleen, OSB